



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager 860-441-6630

### RTM Education Committee

**Chairman Archie Swindell, Representatives Alicia Bauer, Nancy Congdon, Peter Fairbank, Damon Helme, Michael Johnson, Jackie Massett, Scott Newsome, John Scott and Jennifer Smuts**

Thursday, July 15, 2010

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Comm Rm 2

### Special Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
4. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2010-0105 Change in Previously Authorized Board of Education  
CIP Project**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri requested that the Town Council consider a change in a previously authorized Capital Improvement Program project for enhancing educational technologies related to video furnaces, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kadri feels that a contracted, Web-based software and hosting solution would better meet the current and future needs of the school district, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the FYE 2009 CIP #5F-1 Educational Technologies-Video Furnace for \$73,000 be closed and those funds be transferred to the General Fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$73,000 is appropriated from the General Fund's unreserved, undesignated fund balance to the Board of Education account #10800 - Education Services.

Refer to RTM.

**Legislative History**

<b>4/22/2010</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Referred</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the W</b>
<b>4/27/2010</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Discussed</b>	

*The Town Manager explained a request from Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri to "re-purpose" funding that was approved in 2009 for video furnaces in the schools. The new proposal, which is similar to a subscription service, would accomplish the same goal, but by using a third party host for the videos. Although the proposal does not meet the current definition of a capital improvement project, the dollars have already been allocated and it may be appropriate for the Council to consider the request.*

*Councilor O'Beirne expressed his opposition to the proposal and feels this is a prime example of jumping on the latest technology before thinking it out. He suggested that the CIP funds be zeroed out and the Superintendent be asked to include it in his budget request next year along with an adequate analysis. The Councilors asked that Mr. Kadri be invited to a meeting to further explain his request.*

<b>5/25/2010</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Recommended for a Resolution</b>
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*Paul Kadri, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the video furnace project came about as a means to provide professional development and remote access for students. A video furnace is the conduit for providing*

video content and is a significant ongoing investment. Groton Public Schools subsequently researched other options and considered a system similar to YouTube that would work with the smart boards being used in the classrooms. The solution provides YouTube capability as well as the ability to push video. The hardware and software costs are about \$85,000. \$73,000 was allocated in the CIP. Continuing with the video furnace technology would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The video furnaces that have been purchased will be sold or used until their useful life is depleted. Maintenance contracts on the units have not been renewed.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed skepticism about spending money on the latest technology when there are significant cost decreases and capability increases over time. He prefers to wait until there is a proven track record before spending money. Mr. Kadri stated the technology is not new or sophisticated. The payment covers hosting services for the equipment and better connectivity speed, as well as development of the security architecture, administration, and management services. Although the concept of a private video housed location is new, the technology is not.

Councilor Flax asked why YouTube can't be used and Mr. Kadri stated because of security concerns. Groton Public Schools already have video production capabilities and it would take about a year and a half to create a decent video warehouse. The \$85,000 is a one time investment with an ongoing yearly service fee of a couple of thousand dollars per year.

Councilor O'Beirne asked why these funds are not included in the regular budget since this does not qualify as a CIP project. Mr. Kadri suggested this project is consistent with the "communications" project previously approved. If Groton Public Schools had to pay for the project, the money would come out of the computer replacement fund. Discussion followed on funding options.

**5/25/2010                      Town Council Committee of                      Motion**  
**the Whole**

to cancel the current CIP project and make a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$73,000, to be funded by the money in the Capital Reserve Account.

Discussion followed. Councilor Sheets discussed the legal definition of capital improvement

**6/1/2010                      Town Council                      Deleted from Referral List -**  
**Action to be taken**

**6/1/2010                      Town Council                      Adopted and Referred                      Representative Town Meeting**  
Councilor O'Beirne stated that he will be voting against this resolution as he believes that it is an improper use of CIP funds.

**6/4/2010                      Representative Town Meeting                      Referred                      RTM Education Committee**

## **5. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Referral List**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

**For the committee to meet, we need a quorum. Please let the clerk's office (441-6643) know ASAP if you will not be able to attend this meeting.**